



PRESS RELEASE

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Ghazi High School Reopens with a New Look

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN | OCTOBER 23, 2011 – The newly constructed Ghazi High School was inaugurated today by both Afghan and U.S. government officials, including H.E. Minister of Education Ghulam Farooq Wardak and U.S. Deputy Ambassador James B. Cunningham. Funded through USAID's Kabul Schools Program, 5,400 students will be able to study in the rebuilt school.

The Ghazi High School was established as a "Lycée" in 1926 and from the beginning, had instruction in English. After it was almost completely destroyed by decades of war, USAID began working with the Ministry of Education to rebuild the school.

"As far as construction, capacity, design, and use of space, Ghazi is the best school in Afghanistan and I am very thankful to USAID for funding it," said Minister Wardak.

Construction for the 8,200 square meter three-story school began in 2007 and includes buildings with 72 classrooms, an enclosed link way that connects the classroom blocks, and ramps for wheelchair access. The school was designed and constructed to international seismic safety standards to prevent damage from earthquakes.

"The beautiful new Ghazi High School is a shining example of how the U.S. Government is supporting the strong tradition of education in this country and offers a promise that the future of youth in this country will be brighter," said Ambassador Cunningham. "The Ghazi High School and its students will endure as a testament to the United States lasting commitment to the people of Afghanistan."

USAID created the Kabul Schools Program to support the Ministry of Education's ambitious plans to expand quality and access to education, and when the program finishes in 2012, the Ministry will have the capacity to serve the educational needs of more than 12,000 boys and girls in greater Kabul City. In addition to rebuilding the Ghazi school, the Program is constructing new buildings for the Sardar Kabuli High School and has provided clean drinking water and sanitary facilities at seven Kabul high schools.

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